

War Office Jan'y 17th 1778

I have been duly honoured with your Favour of the 11th instant. The Committee to whom I communicated it, feel themselves happy in the Anticipation of the Supply they shall acquire from your exertions. The Necessity whereof still continues & Things yet bear the same unfavorable Aspect. Pork can be procured here at £4.10⁰ hundred but Salt is not to be had for curing any large Quantity. The Committee will not prescribe Price or any other Matter to you as they are so perfectly satisfied of your better Judgment in the Business arising within your State. The Seizures & Certificates in consequence of them were intended to be levelled against & given to Engrosers & Speculators great Numbers of whom abound in the State of Maryland equal at least to Persons of that pernicious Cast in any other State. They extend their Purchases & Influence into this State wherein the Board of War have had repeated Information they have purchased up great Quantities of Provisions & every Article wanted for the Army. These avaricious & dangerous People had raised the Expectations of the People so high that no reasonable Price would command their Commodities. This Consideration induced the Idea of Seizures & Certificates & the Committee cannot but think that the severest Steps ~~it~~ would be justifiable with People whose sole Motive was Gain. Any Loss they may sustain will be but a proper Punishment. As to the Persons who grow or raise Provisions on their Farms the Case is to be sure different. The Committee are sensible of the Justice of your Excellency's Observations as to the Bay Navigation. They shew too the Necessity of forwarding everything we can during the Winter when the Men of War do not

venture so high up the Bay. Your Sentiments as to the Necessity
of building Boats of a proper Construction have been laid before the
Marine Committee who have had some such Measure in Contemplation
Will no Doubt immediately take Steps for having them built
Mean time if your Excellency can have Tobacco Blakes Shallops
or other Craft fitted for a temporary Purpose all Expenses in
hiring buying or repairing them will be borne. The Treasury
Board will take Care to furnish the necessary Supply of Cash
either transmit it to you or pay your Drafts as you shall
deem most proper. I enclose the Information herewith sent
for your Excellency's Consideration & Enquiry &

I have the Honour to be

Yr very obed Servt

Francis Lightfoot Lee

His Excellency J Johnson Esq Gov of Maryland.

Confidential Service

Her Excellency
 & Thomas Johnston Esq
 Gov^r of State of Maryland

War Office

Annapolis

Jan^y 11. 1770
 Francis Lightfoot Lee
 of the Board of War
 all having the
 previous notice to any
 copy of up the day.